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Letter dated 14 May 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Since the establishment of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) on 1 July 2010, the peace and security challenges on which the United Nations and the African Union have been working have increased and become more complex. From the ongoing collaboration on Somalia and Darfur and the negotiations between the Sudan and South Sudan to the crises in Mali and the Sahel, advancing the strategic partnership between the African Union and the United Nations has become a self-evident and urgent need.

The African Union and other key partners are supporting a strengthening of UNOAU to serve as a valued and trusted counterpart to the African Union leadership to discuss and coordinate strategy and action on issues affecting peace and security in Africa, especially the many that cut across subregions.

In this regard, it is my intention to appoint Mr. Haile Menkerios (South Africa) as Head of UNOAU and my Special Representative to the African Union at the level of Under-Secretary-General. He will replace in this position Mr. Zachary Muburi-Muita, whose assignment will end on 30 June 2013. Mr. Menkerios will also continue his current assignment as my Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan. I should like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Mr. Muburi-Muita for his dedicated service with UNOAU since its establishment in 2010.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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